



PATENT
Docket No. 3620-4010

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Kenji HIRANO et al.

Serial No.: 09/622,424

Group Art Unit: 2622

Filed: August 16, 2000

Examiner: Unassigned

For: IMAGE DATA PROCESSOR AND PROCESSING METHOD

#13

K DAVIS
12-3-03

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop Non Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Office Action issued October 22, 2003, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

Group I - Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 drawn to a data processor for processing a block formed by two dimensional data, classified in class 358, subclass 426.12.

Group II - Claims 9-24 drawn to Huffman Encoding, classified in class 382, subclass 246.

Applicants hereby traverse the restriction requirement. Applicants submit that for a restriction requirement to be proper, "[t]here must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required". M.P.E.P. §803. Applicants respectfully submit that examination of all of the claims will not cast a serious burden on the Examiner.

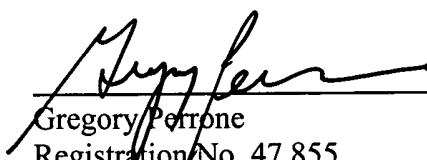
In order to comply with the requirements of restriction practice, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse the prosecution of Group II, claims 9-24, in response to the Restriction Requirement issued October 22, 2003.

No fees are believed necessary in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments which may be required for this paper to Deposit Account Number 12-2325, Order No. 3620-4010. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: November 24, 2003

By: _____


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